

State of California
Department of Water Resources
State Water Resources Control Board
Department of Health Services

2002 RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION FOR WATER
MINUTES OF
26 FEBRUARY 2003 PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Meeting Time and Location

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 26 February 2003, WaterReuse Association-California Section Annual Conference, Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf Hotel, 555 North Point Street, San Francisco, California.

Attendance

Over 60 people attended the public discussion session, including 10 Task Force members, 3 state support staff, the facilitator and 50 members of the public. See attachment for a complete list.

Summary of Proceedings

The lead staff support for the Recycled Water Task Force (Task Force), Fawzi Karajeh, welcomed the participants to the workshop. Mr. Karajeh thanked the WaterReuse Association, the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, and staff. Mr. Karajeh described the workshop as a formal discussion to learn from each other, as well as aid the Task Force in the development of their work. He then introduced Bob Whitley, outgoing president of the California Section of the WaterReuse Association. Mr. Whitley's opening remarks described the development of the WaterReuse Association, the development of the 2002 Recycled Water Task Force, and the reason for the public workshop. The workshop was conceived to allow the public to learn about the activities of the Task Force (what has been occurring, why it has been occurring and where it is headed), and to provide a venue for people, not directly involved with the Task Force activities, to speak on the issues.

The 2002 Recycled Water Task Force has been a unique opportunity to have senior management of the Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, and Department of Health Services to meet over the course of a year to focus on a single topic. Even though pleased with all the state level activity, Mr. Whitley recognizes that all recycled water projects are local projects. Projects are approved, operated, maintained, and enforced at the local level. The state can not and should not dictate how individual projects are implemented. Communities are distinct with differing issues, as well as level of acceptance for recycled water. Therefore, local community involvement is essential.

Presentations were then made by two panels with opportunity for public comments and discussion after each panel finished.

Panel on Water Recycling with Public Dialogue

Public Information, Education and Outreach Issues

Herman Collins led the first session: Panel on Water Recycling with Public Dialogue. Herman Collins described himself as a consultant in San Diego California and co-chair of the Public Information, Education, and Outreach workgroup for the Task Force. Mr. Collins' initial position, with regard to recycled water, was "far to the left." He was an opponent to the indirect potable reuse project in San Diego and worked with the city council office, which spearheaded the defeat of that project. Mr. Collins said that since that time, he has become more educated on what recycled water is and what it can be, as part of our water resources. He does not believe that recycled water is the answer to all of our problems, but there are uses for recycled water. He emphasized that the recommendations show that the Task Force is concerned with how the public as consumers, as ratepayers, feel about the use of recycled water. The recommendations point out the need for public participation in the local decisions about its community's water supplies. Herman Collins noted how over the course of the year of Task Force deliberations, those on the Task Force with largely differing opinions have come together with one united voice in the report. He stressed that the Task Force, as a group, does not propose recycled water as an end all, but as an important part of the state's water resource mix.

2002 Recycled Water Task Force Introduction

Next, Jonas Minton, Deputy Director of the Department of Water Resources and Chair of the Task Force's workgroup on Public Information, Education, and Outreach, spoke. This meeting is one of the Task Force attempts at getting better dialogue, while illustrating the challenges encountered in achieving that dialogue. After the introductions, he estimated that 85% of the workshop audience represent water recycling proponents. This Task Force made a conscious effort to include diverse opinions. As Herman Collins described, he was a leader in opposition to an indirect potable recycling project in San Diego. That is why he is on the Task Force. The Task Force includes a member of the Revolving Grandmas; a group that feels its issues are not always heard. It is difficult to get people who have other jobs and lives to volunteer their time and energy to work on the Task Force. They are not paid for their good work participating in Task Force activities.

Mr. Minton joked that there is no need to reinvent the flat tire. In the view of water recycling proponents, there have been some flat tires, some notable failures of water recycling projects. The Task Force has tried first to understand that water recycling project proponents are not evil pollution mongers trying to get the public to drink bad water, and second to understand that the traditional processes utilized to develop water projects have not been inclusive of the communities. This is made evident when a project gets stopped. Community involvement in project development has been the major issue of this Task Force. The Task Force does NOT recommend that communities be required to use recycled water as part of their potable water supplies.

The state's role is to ensure there are standards for the various uses of recycled water for those communities choosing to use recycled water, and **these** and other issues, in addition to public engagement, were addressed by the Task Force. The impetus for this workshop is how to dialogue with, not educate, the communities, which includes listening to and hearing their wisdom and concerns. This dialogue should allow the communities to exercise their right to make their judgements about the quality of water they chose for different uses. Mr. Minton said if one important recommendation is coming out of the Task Force it is for those proposing water recycling projects to reach out to their community, have a dialogue with their community, and understand the concerns of their community.

Task Force Recommendations

The lead staff person to the Task Force, Fawzi Karajeh, described the Recycled Water Task Force: history, objectives, workgroups, status of work, and draft recommendations. His slides are attached.

Environmental Justice Coalition for Water Introduction

Michael Stanley-Jones (replacing Amy Hui, who was scheduled to speak) spoke about the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW), which was formed in 1999. For the past three and a half years Mr. Stanley-Jones represented the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition on the steering committee of the EJCW. Currently, Mr. Stanley-Jones is transitioning from his position at the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition to a new position at the Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund. However, Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund also is a member agency to the EJCW, so he will still participate in the EJCW.

The Oakland based Pacific Institute organized about eighty organizations and individuals statewide into the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water to develop environmental justice recommendations to the CALFED Record Of Decision (ROD). Michael Stanley-Jones participates in the Outreach and Education Subcommittee.

Through its work, the EJCW has uncovered the environmental justice and equity issues within water policy in the world. In regard to recycled water and water reuse, EJCW discovered that there exists a range of opinions from fear with concerns about public health to absolute support along with demands for greater public access to the planning for the recycled water infrastructure. Thus, the EJCW does not hold a unified position regarding recycled water. An interest in public dialogue and public involvement is what unifies the members of the EJCW. In fact, Mr. Stanley-Jones commends the Task Force and the Public Information, Education, and Outreach white paper recommendation which successfully highlights of the essential need for public engagement with state, regional, and local agencies on the issue of water use, and recycled water in particular.

The original idea for this workshop was to hold the workshop in a low-income Bay Area neighborhood in a venue accessible to members of the community. The EJCW was looking at a Peninsula venue because of a controversy brewing in Redwood City at Redwood Shores over the use of recycled water for landscape irrigation. In fact, the Redwood City Council recently voted down a proposal to use recycled water in one neighborhood. This surprised Mr. Stanley-Jones, as Redwood City is under a severe financial penalty threat for using more than its fair allotment of fresh water. A strategy involving recycled water use could help them avoid the financial penalty. If the city does not correct the excess water use, it may have to take funds from other programs to help pay for the penalty and thus cut other services. As this example points out, the issues surrounding recycled water are not limited to public health interests but also includes public finances, allocation of local monies and the impact of decisions on public services.

Michael Stanley-Jones commented on the issue brought up regarding Proposition 50 desalination efforts and the environmental justice community. For operation, desalination plants require a nearby power supply. The placement of power plants in environmental justice communities has been a volatile issue because of the cumulative impacts of pollution released from these plants. Because of the potential community concerns and the possibility of **mobilizing opposition**, more thought needs to be put into the siting decision for desalination plants.

This topic segues into Mr. Stanley-Jones comment on the Task Force recommendation for public agencies to be involved with and dialogue with the community very early in the process: pre-

CEQA outreach. A standard of “no surprises” should be the norm when addressing communities about contentious siting decisions like desalination and power plant facilities. In addition to the institutional options to reach into the communities recommended by the Task Force through leadership support for water recycling utilizing a media campaign, Mr. Stanley-Jones recommends working with community-based organizations: churches, synagogues, mosques, et cetera, to effectively mobilize and involve the public very early in the process. Thus, effective public outreach requires that agencies obtain this knowledge of the way in which **communities communicate with their publics**. Participation on watershed councils is another effective outreach option available. These councils are multi-stakeholder forums examining water resource issues and the environmental use recycled water in particular. These councils can provide agencies a readymade forum for involving the public in communities where there are potential conflicts — whether for issues regarding siting or recycled water use.

Water Recycling and Human Health Issues

Next, David Spath, Chief of the Drinking Water and Environmental Management Division at the Department of Health Services, spoke of the Task Force recommendations that relate to human health. From the Health Department’s perspective, potable reuse, ingestion of recycled water, is a type of reuse well into the future, if at all. In fact, potable reuse was not part of the Task Force agenda. The legislation directed the Task Force to decide whether to reconvene the panel on indirect potable reuse. This panel would continue to study the technical aspects relating to human health and to the production of safe recycled water. The Task Force decided against reconvening a panel to further examine the scientific studies for several reasons. Since the last science panel on indirect potable reuse was convened in the early 1990’s until the present, a number of studies have been done on indirect potable reuse. Several panels associated with recharge projects have produced excellent ideas. A few years ago, the National Academy of Science, through the National Academy of Engineers, produced a state of the art panel report that has provided direction with regard to indirect potable reuse. While the Task Force has decided that there is no need to reconvene a science-based panel at this time, it recommended that the State should convene an independent statewide review panel on indirect potable reuse to ensure adequate safety and assurance for California residents. Reflecting on the several projects that have not gone forward, there are major health questions that the public need answered. The Task Force acknowledged the importance of involving the public — individuals and officials both pro and con — early on. In Mr. Spath’s opinion, this recommendation of the Task Force is very important and should go forward.

From a public health standpoint, the Task Force recognized that funding for research of recycled water is important. This research should look at improving technologies to make recycled water even safer and addressing the questions that many people have about indirect potable reuse — emerging chemicals, endocrine disrupters, pharmaceuticals, and personal health care products. These are chemicals that, DHS is just now recognizing, may get into recycled water. Although securing funding for research may be more difficult during these financial times, certainly with Proposition 50 there may be some mechanisms to bring money to bear to that issue.

The potential for inadvertent cross connections between potable and recycled water plumbing is important to human health. There is a recommendation to try and improve the clarity of cross connections regulations at the same time recognizing that cross connections can be problematic through inappropriate exposure of people to recycled water.

Finally, the DHS is interested in the Task Force recommendation to establish a consistent approach to recycled water use. This approach should include informing the public of projects, ensuring human health protection, and applying regulations uniformly to all communities.

The facilitator, Eric Schockman, opened the panel to comments, suggestions, and critiques.

Ray Wang of the Safe Water Coalition in Redwood City, California spoke first. His community took exception to a Redwood City proposal for mandatory use of recycled water for irrigation of residential front lawns, common areas, parks, and schoolyards. From his experience, Mr. Wang believes that communication on recycled water has been biased toward benefits such as no tax increases, no long-term damage, while describing the potential risks as minimal. He also believes that promoting recycled water projects is premature because of the lack of strong government oversight, lack of assumption of long-term liabilities by promoters, inadequate commitment to health research, and approval of the re-introduction of known and unknown contaminants into the environment.

Mr. Wang considers the protections provided by Title 22 of state health regulations outdated. Thus the Safe Water Coalition calls for tougher and updated regulations on usage along with adequate scientific research. Mr. Wang sees a need to provide funding for long-term health and safety research along with stipulations for long-term epidemiological studies built into the recycled water projects. He would like a Task Force recommendation to increase research funding and to require research as a component in all projects.

Finally, Ray Wang wonders what agencies are monitoring new pharmaceuticals, personal care products, hormones, estrogens, and industrial chemicals known to cause risks. Although many of these compounds are micro contaminants at a low “dosage”, Mr. Wang is concerned about the additive effects of unknown combinations on the environment. Mr. Wang’s entire testimony can be found in the attachments.

Addressing Mr. Wang’s concerns about the scientific studies of recycled water use, Mr. Lewinger stated that Los Angeles County Sanitation District has performed three significant epidemiological studies over that past ten years. The last study utilized a test group of 900,000 people (using the recycled water) and a control group of 700,000 people (not using recycled water). This study found no negative effects.

Mr. Lewinger also explained that most workshop participants do not financially benefit from the use of recycled water. They are simply considering alternatives for their ratepayers. They work for boards of directors or city councils, who make the decisions at the local level. In the Task Force’s charge to identify impediments and what can be done, the Task Force makes a strong recommendation to provide money for research, as suggested by Ray Wang.

Bob Castle explained that the state regulations are not outdated but were recently updated and enacted in 2000/2001. This update was the result of 10 years of dialogue and research. In fact, he states that California regulations are the most comprehensive in the country and are continually studied and updated.

Ray Wang answered that as a public health major with an MPH, he understands that 20 year prospective studies are probably more valuable. Therefore, studies won’t provide answers until a twenty-year time span has elapsed. Mr. Wang also stated that the regulations cannot account for all chemicals and contaminants produced or their additive effects. Mr. Wang requested that recycled water proponents provide financial liability and assume the risk.

Herman Collins asked that all the workshop participants consider the work of the Task Force and respond to specifics regarding the Task Force recommendations. In the report, the membership

spoke directly to decision-making that is local, value-based, and works from the bottom up. The Task Force does not propose a state mandate for recycled water use. The state deals with code enforcement, the plumbing code, the health issue, the science issue, and the research issue. Even with all these controls in place, the report advocates that recycled water should still be a local decision. Mr. Collins asked the audience to see if the report provides a foundation to at least continue the discussion.

Ray Wang apologized to those at the workshop who are performing their public service, working to fulfill their board's orders, and seeking out the necessary information. The intent of his remarks was not to say that all recycled water proponents at the workshop were advocating for recycled water because of financial incentives. Many of the proponents that his coalition has encountered have all been in that position.

Considering what Herman Collins suggested in sticking to the recommendations, Ray Wang questioned the recommendation to adopt a state sponsored media campaign to increase public awareness and knowledge of recycled water. Mr. Wang also questioned the recommendation to establish top down support for water recycling to include convening a statewide panel to address issue related to indirect potable reuse. He asks what is top down support? Is this on a policy level, or are we going to have value sets that are communicated as ways to consider top down support. How does this recommendation apply back to a state sponsored media campaign? What are you going to say? *Recycled water--we need it. It's safe?* Finally, Mr. Wang would like his coalition to be considered for any public panel opportunities.

Michael Stanley-Jones responded to Mr. Wang's comments. The Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC) has been a long time proponent of industrial reuse and closed loop recycling of gray water in high technology applications. Ten years ago SVTC joined other environmental groups in a lawsuit that resulted in a cap on the South Bay San Jose/Santa Clara treatment works treated effluent discharge to the bay because it was introducing too much clean water into the estuary and changing the chemistry. Part of the campaign was to get industrial users of water to recycle more instead of sending all their effluent to the treatment plant. Therefore, SVTC is indirectly responsible for the creation of the South Bay Water Recycling Program.

Mr. Stanley-Jones wanted to assure the friends from Redwood City that the local stakeholder processes do work. Although a longtime supporter of recycled water, SVTC learned that there may be ecological impacts from recycled water. So when they, and other conservation and environmental organizations were approached early — before the pilot phase was developed and launched — about a City of San Jose proposal to use recycled water for streamflow augmentation in Coyote Creek, SVTC articulated that concern. They said that SVTC would support a 3-year pilot, which incorporates fish bioassays examining the potential ecological impacts of endocrine disrupters on species exposed to recycled water. The pilot was attempted and then put on hold because of insufficient controls. Instead City of San Jose responded appropriately by giving the study over to the National Research Council agenda, along with financial and in kind support for this topic. Therefore the pilot is on hold while the community learns more, and the decision-makers listen more.

Michael Stanley-Jones believes that this response is consistent with the Task Force recommendations: let communities have a dialogue and grapple with their issues; convene a dialogue without assumptions that a project is decided; move projects forward where there is consensus; and address concerns locally and through networking with national agencies where there is not consensus.

Herman Collins agreed that label Top Down is not an adequate descriptor. The recommendation expresses the need for all agency officials, as well as the public, to be involved in the discussion. DWR should not be the sole charge on this issue; DHS, the science and educational communities need to be involved to provide as much of a broad-based discussion as possible.

Next, Mr. Collins explained the intent of the State sponsored media campaign. It is difficult to dialogue about recycled water when the message that people have been seeing are skull and cross-bones, which connotes danger, poison, and stay away. If recycled water is that bad, then why should it ever be used for landscape irrigation, and agricultural irrigation? The State sponsored media campaign is to provide information to the public, to familiarize the public with the uses of recycled water, and to identify recycled water as a product that could be utilized in the places acceptable to the public.

Ms. Ellen Stern-Harris of the Fund for the Environment asked if the Task Force needs to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in submitting the legislative report. She stated that following the steps outlined for CEQA would entail looking at alternatives to potable reuse, including the financing of low cost loans for agriculture for water-conserving technology. She believes this agricultural conservation would replace the need for recycled water.

Ellen Stern Harris briefly questioned the benefits of localism, as described by Jonas, in the face of banking and transferring of waters from one body to another. For instance, water that may be injected in Irwindale may end up in West Los Angeles. As co-author of the Coastal Act (Proposition 20) and vice-chair of the first Coastal Commission, she expressed her concern about the usurpation of scenic coasts by desalination plants, and requested that the Recycled Water Task Force address this issue.

Henry Ongerth is troubled by the limit of the Task Force charge. He said that one of the impediments to the development of wastewater for good uses is a lack of attention paid to the matter of alternatives. Alternatives are an essential part of project development. The Task Force should have found a way to include alternatives as part of the discussion.

Bob Feinbaum commented that attendees were at this meeting because of projections that indicate that California will not have enough water. That is why he is surprised at the segmentation of the discussion. As he understands it, the Task Force recommendations — probably as charged by the legislature — did not consider water conservation. Water conservation is an effective means of increasing the water supply.

Mr. Feinbaum explained that there are two ways of recycling water. The first way is to treat wastewater from homes, factories, and commercial establishments and treat it at a centralized treatment plant. The recycled water is then distributed back to the community for beneficial uses. The second way is to reuse the water on site. Appendix G of the Plumbing Code covers the second way and it is called the way to reuse gray water.

Bob Feinbaum has not heard any discussion, nor seen any recommendation about the integration of gray water reuse with recycling. He believes that the Task Force ought to consider gray water within the scope of discussion.

Jonas Minton answered that he oversees the updating of the California Water Plan. This 5 year process, utilizing a 70+ person diverse advisory committee, is examining 20 different alternatives/measures to meet California's future water needs — another 17 million people will

be living in California in the next 30 years. To accomplish this task, subgroups are looking at specific measures. If each group is required to look at all alternatives, it can be too unwieldy. At the same time the committee and subgroups need to be aware that there are cross cutting issues.

Mr. Minton appreciated and made note of the comments on desalination. These concerns will be forwarded to the appropriate California Water Plan subgroup, and to the task force being formed to look into desalination.

Mr. Minton said that even though an alternative looks difficult to implement, it is important to discuss them all. As for indirect potable reuse, this takes place in California and has occurred for some time. Some people want to increase this practice. So the Task Force asked is this a purely technical question. They decided that the question goes beyond the pure science perspective. In addition to the best information and epidemiological studies, the question whether to use recycled water goes to people's values, goes to risk, and goes to uncertainties of the community. The Task Force recommends looking at all the values and concerns of the community. As indirect potable reuse is currently occurring, the question will not go away. So a follow-up to the Recycled Water Task Force is a recommendation to look into ways to engage the public and deal with these issues.

Bob Whitley responded that California's projected population growth of 600,000 people per year requires approximately 100,000 acre-feet of water per year. Therefore, the consideration of alternatives is clear to those responsible to provide safe water. AB 331 was intended to look at just one possible alternative — recycled water — to meet California's future water needs. WateReuse Association, as an organization, acknowledges that it is not the only solution, but rather part of the mix that needs to be applied.

Henry Ongerth questioned the history of AB 331 and the information source used to write the legislation.

Bob Whitley responded that the primary motivation for AB 331 was from WateReuse with the intent of looking at one alternative.

Panel on Processes for Community Involvement
Case Study: East Bay Municipal Utility District

After lunch break, East Bay Municipal Utility District's community affairs representative, Lori Steere, opened the second session with a presentation she likes to call "Getting Your Ducks in a Row": a case study on East Bay MUD's experience with a West Oakland Community.

Although public outreach efforts vary with project size and level of community concerns, the underlying principal — that public involvement is valuable — remains the same. Ms. Steere stressed that without public acceptance and support there will not be a project.

In her experience, there are two publics: the public internal to the agency, and the public external to the agency. With the internal public, it is important the senior management understands and agrees to the project fundamentals, and provides communication coordination with clear and consistent messages. The external public outreach efforts should begin early and be carried out on a continual basis with full disclosure, full feedback, problem avoidance, and consensus building.

Ms. Steere described the 5 "C's" to good public outreach: 1. Credibility, 2. Comprehensive, 3. Communication, 4. Coordination, 5. Cooperation, and concluded by describing the process

occurring with the West Oakland community. Lori Steer's presentation slides can be found in the attachments.

CALFED Bay Delta Program Environmental Justice

The environmental justice coordinator for the California Bay Delta Authority (CBDA), Ken McGhee spoke about the CBDA (formerly known as CALFED — a program to address better uses of the Bay Delta and beneficial uses across the state). He explained that CBDA is following CALFED example by incorporating the public into the process. After reading the Public Information, Education, and Outreach Workgroup's white paper, he commends the paper for its proposal to perform environmental justice (EJ) with an expanded definition of environmental justice – not just minority communities, nor low-income people of color. In fact, recommendation 4: *Engage the public in an active dialogue using a community value-based decision making*, follows EJ principles.

Public outreach efforts may take more time than an agency is ready to give. The first two or three times agencies approach a community, agency representatives may be talked at and yelled at. This phase, the “groan zone”, needs to be passed through before meaningful dialogue can occur.

Public Communication Future

Michael Stanley-Jones explained that by providing historically underrepresented populations fair treatment, particularly in the water policy world, then all segments of society are allowed a fair opportunity to have their voices heard with confidence in policy decision-making.

The basis of environmental justice analysis is demographic data and geographic information. Since the CEQA process already includes a study of the community demographics of the potentially impacted neighborhoods, environmental justice recommends performing this analysis before the feasibility studies begin. The analysis includes looking at the census block data, ethnicity, linguistic characteristics, adult child ratio, and income level. The linguistic information can assist outreach by providing informational materials in appropriate languages. The adult child ratio and income levels can help to target potential concerns regarding public health because of physiology or inadequate health care access. Mr. Stanley-Jones asked that the agencies share this information with the EJ advocates to ensure that the appropriate populations are addressed and so the EJ advocates will include these people in their own outreach efforts.

Social equity is not only the equitable or fair distribution of risks, whether real or perceived, but also the fair access to public benefits. Within the EJ community there is great diversity on recycled water viewpoints, including groups that want more access to the benefits recycled water brings. In fact, there are groups that believe that there is too much emphasis on the ecological or potential health risks of recycled water without really engaging the communities concerns regarding fair access of benefits.

Michael Stanley-Jones gave several recommendations on performing outreach. He suggests utilizing voluntarily established community advisory boards to resolve conflicts. Watershed councils, which have a broad participation, community credibility, and many years of engagement in water resource protection issues, provide a natural vehicle for connecting with the communities. Community-based organizations provide another vehicle for connecting with the communities. Because they are already established, know the players, the issues, and the history, they can save a lot of time by contacting them before launching into a proposal.

When setting up an outreach workshop, consider the schedules of working people, public transportation to meetings, physical accessibility, translation services, the venue, and childcare.

This Task Force workshop is not the type of forum, which engenders community dialogue. Although the EJCW and the Task Force took advantage of this opportunity, he pointed out that the Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf is not considered an appropriate venue for grass-roots activists. At EJCW workshops childcare is provided. It is important to speak in the medium the audience understands and appreciates. For instance, the audience is lost after too many Power Point presentations.

Mr. Stanley-Jones recommends getting the audience involved through small group discussions, workgroups, and breakout sessions. Use colorful graphics with information that the people can absorb quickly can also be helpful. He stressed the need to build trust and nurture relationships by following through on promises and contacts made at meetings.

Michael Stanley-Jones summed up his recommendations by stating that public outreach is a daunting challenge, and there are techniques with a track record of involving the public that will allow agencies to meet this challenge.

Immunizing the Customers and the Public Against Demagoguery

Next water reuse consultant Bahman Sheikh spoke about ways to deal with demagogues in the realm of recycled water. A demagogue is a leader who makes use of popular prejudices, false claims, and promises to gain power. To immunize the public to this practice, Mr. Sheikh recommends spreading the truth early, and exposing the lies. To challenge prejudices against human waste, he recommends focusing on what it takes to go from sewage to recycled water. The three components of immunization campaigns are public awareness of successful recycled water projects, public involvement leading to their choice, and public education of the community. Bahman Sheikh ended his presentation with the statement that recycled water is not "toilet to tap" but rather it is as Harold Bailey described "toilet to treatment to treatment to treatment to treatment to storage to mixing to treatment again and then distribution". Mr. Sheikh's presentation can be found in the attachments.

Addressing Public Concerns about Endocrine Disruptors

Stephanie Hughes, City of Palo Alto, presented the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative study of endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs). Endocrine disrupting compounds are chemicals that interfere with the normal hormone functions in humans and animals controlling metabolism, reproduction, and growth. EDCs include prescription drugs, chemotherapy medication, household products, industrial chemicals, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and animal husbandry products. The U.S. EPA is determining which of the 87,000 currently used chemicals have endocrine disrupting effects.

Ms. Hughes explained that the purpose of the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) study was to look into the many concerns regarding EDCs — irrigation, cooling tower drift, streamflow augmentation during spawning, groundwater contamination — and the treatment options for various uses. The study found that there are thousands of potential compounds that need to be sorted into non-EDC or EDC categories. Two identified EDCs have been successfully treated, using trickling filter, activated sludge, microfiltration, and reverse osmosis, to levels below any concern. Many other EDCs still need to be tested.

Because the WMI study is incomplete, the group is reconvening to determine pollution control measures to control EDCs. Ms. Hughes said that they cannot forbid the use of chemotherapy drugs and other medicines, but they can educate the community leaders and the public. Stephanie Hughes' presentation slides can be found in the attachments.

Future of Water Recycling in California

Jonas Minton commended the workshop participants for their impassioned advocacy with strong views on the subject. He noted the need for people to talk to each other candidly and directly. Although participants may not be convinced by others' positions, the dialogue has started. Science is indispensable, and human relationships and how people work through their differences are also essential.

It is helpful to have strong views on the motivations of others. By talking these through, the communication can go further. Mr. Minton cautions that the initial conversation can take a long time. It took Bahman Sheikh 11 years of working with the stakeholders, listening to them, and addressing their concerns before the Monterey Wastewater Reclamation project was approved. If agencies do not acknowledge the different views and start drilling down into the concerns, they will get nowhere and they will just be talking passed each other.

Herman Collins noted that the opposite of a demagogue is an autocrat. He stressed that people should not gauge success on the adoption of a recycled water policy. The San Diego project was not a failed effort. The people spoke, and that is a success. In fact, if the agencies want to go back and do it again, they will need to engage the public. That was a victory for value-based decision making.

Agencies should not be autocratic in their approach. It may take several times, or years, to engage the communities. It is not an easy fix.

All Californians have a need to preserve the little water resources available. Flushing water down the drain and out the ocean outfall is not making good use of this resource. Californians need to live through their fears and ask what are the possible uses for this as part of the whole water equation. Then work for California and decide what is going to be best for its citizens.

Christina Lai co-founder of Safe Water Coalition spoke on the issue of why recycled water mandates failed in Redwood City. Redwood City has been planning to utilize recycled water to irrigate domestic lawns in Redwood Shores because of its proximity to the wastewater treatment plant. Ms. Lai explained that the Redwood City performed a pilot study utilizing recycled water in a median strip. Then the city concluded that recycled water was beneficial without buy-in and input from the community. At the first public information session for the project under consideration in Redwood City, Safe Water Coalition founders listened to a discussion by the public works director of all the benefits regarding recycled water, and were told that there were no drawbacks. Ms. Lai said that she was laughed at when she asked for a choice. Safe Water Coalition was told that recycled water would be made mandatory anyway. The Safe Water Coalition founders had not heard the other side of the recycled water issue. Ms. Lai stressed the need to treat people with respect.

After the first public information session for the Redwood City project Ms. Lai said the public received inconsistent messages from the city. She said that credibility is necessary to build trust. She recommends that agencies be honest and up front with the public, and provide the background and true intentions for the project. She said that drought is not important compared to health. Citizens of Redwood City can choose to allow the grass to go brown so long the kids are safe. She requests that the community be involved in those trade-off decisions.

Ms. Lai states that recycled water should not be mandated or forced in any residential areas especially when the neighborhood was not originally developed with recycled water. Projects should involve community leaders in the early stages of a recycled water project to air out issues

early and to create an action plan to resolve these issues in a meaningful and constructive way. Ms. Lai asks that the state of California conduct adequate and on-going research on “emerging contaminants, which parallels with the federal investigation. Communities should proactively avoid water shortages through indoor conservation and irrigation conservation. In early stages of a project, developers of new developments should have a written plan that specifies the water supply source, along with a listing of potential community concerns for that supply. Ms. Lai summed up her position by stating that recycled water should be used as a last resort, not a means to expand dependence on pure water supplies or impact residential areas for the sake of profits over health. Christina Lai’s presentation can be found in the attachments.

Ms. Lai said that when Safe Water Coalition asked Redwood City to use reverse osmosis to treat the recycled water in locations where children might be exposed, the city said that it was not probable.

Ellen Stern Harris appreciated Jonas Minton’s helpful and positive manner. She stated that she hopes that they can work together. She had several concerns regarding the Recycled Water Task Force: none of the opposition to then City of Los Angeles East Valley Water Recycling Project, the Task Force workshop participants are 85% government officials and not decision-makers, the industry dictated Jackie Goldberg’s bill authorizing the Task Force, appointees were selected by industry, and that there is not one requirement for agricultural conservation even though 85% of water is going to agriculture.

Fawzi Karajeh answered Ms. Stern Harris’ comment about the selection of the Task Force members. He explained that DWR worked for over two months to find good minds to create a balanced committee.

John Plummer stated that the issue is how to encourage rational discussion and dialogue. This cannot be accomplished by labeling audience members as demagogues. He said that recycled water information be expressed in a balanced, reasoned, technically supported manner. He said that the Public Information, Education and Outreach Workgroup’s white paper does not contain information to bring recycled water programs forward.

Bahman Sheikh apologized and explained that he did not intend to characterize, as a demagogue, any the members of the public expressing their opinions.

Earle Hartling emphasized that public governmental agencies need to treat people with respect, or the agencies poison the project. The issues of disrespect and lack of credibility could happen with any project, and is not specifically tied to recycled water.

Mr. Hartling stated that it is improbable that the over 80,000 chemicals will all be studied in a timely manner. He agrees that endocrine disrupters are a problem for fish as they are always immersed in the water. However, fish physiology is different from a baby sucking water out of a puddle. With all that said Mr. Hartling acknowledges that agencies are not getting the response that they need from the public. The public is not willing to understand the information and accept the project because agencies have treated them with disrespect.

Lori Steere explained her personal thoughts on recycled water. By keeping perspective on things, she has the opinion that recycled water is safe. She believes that a child drinking water out of a puddle is more at risk from what is in the soil. A child is more at risk from not washing her hands after using the bathroom than she is from contact with recycled water. There has not been any documented problem from the use of recycled water in municipal parks. That is not the case with

drinking “fresh” water. With so many standards in place, there has not yet been a public health problem with the use of recycled water.

Christina Lai responded that she does not appreciate the Ms. Steere’s assurances. The Safe Water Coalition does not want involuntary exposure. Ms. Lai does not know what the future will tell.

Stephanie Hughes clarified the point that the EDC examples in her presentation are not from recycled water, but rather from “fresh” water. She recommends that health officials should be looking for EDC’s in streamflow.

Several participants wanted to have a follow up meeting to address future discussion topics, and hear the best evidence with the best questioners in a constructive debate over the issues.

Feb2603 Minutes_052003Draft

2002 RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE
ATTENDEES AT 26 FEBRUARY 2003 PUBLIC DISCUSSION SESSION

N. R. Allorb	Ecological Engineering
Gregory G. Baatrup	Delta Diablo Sanitation District
Jennifer Bennett	Questa Engineering Corporation
Kirk Bone	Parker Development Company
Kevin Booker	Sonoma County Water Agency
Norris Brandt	Irvine Ranch Water District
Bob Carley	Boyle Engineering
Dan Carlson	Utilities Department, City of Santa Rosa
Bob Castle	Marin Municipal Water District
Herman C. Collins	Collins Strategic Group, Inc.
Rich Condit	San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board
MaryAnne Dennis	Environmental Health Division, Monterey County
Bob Feinbaum	Hydro Nova
Paul Findley	Malcolm Pirnie
Larry Fregin	South Coast Water District
Kathryn Gies	West Yost & Associates
John Glover	Winzler & Kelly
Tom Gorman	Luster National
Ruth Gravanis	Alliance for a Clean Waterfront
Richard Harris	WaterReuse Association
Earle Hartling	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Stephanie Hughes	City of Palo Alto
Bob Hultquist	Department of Health Services
Keith Israel	Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
Fawzi Karajeh	Department of Water Resources
Steve Kasower	Bureau of Reclamation, Southern California Area Office
Christine Kennelly	Kearns & West
Nancy King	Department of Water Resources
Steven Krefting	Alliance for a Clean Waterfront
Christina Lai	Safe Water Coalition
Gary Lee	Harris & Associates
Keith Lewinger	Fallbrook Public Utility District
Maria G. Mariscal	San Diego County Water Authority
Jeff Marmer	Alliance for a Clean Waterfront
Ken McGhee	CALFED
Dave McKee	CBE
Cindy Megerdigian	El Dorado Irrigation District
Mark Millan	Data Instincts
Richard Mills	State Water Resources Control Board
Jonas Minton	Department of Water Resources
Karla Nemeth	Jones & Stokes Associates
Hoover H. Ng	Water Replenishment District of Southern California
Jolene Northrop	Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
Henry J. Ongerth	
John Plummer	Friends of Lake Merced
Robert M. Reed	Boyle Engineering Corporation
Dana Ripley	Ripley Pacific Company
Cheryl Sandoval	Environmental Health Division, Monterey County

Robin Saunders
H. Eric Schockman
Bahman Sheikh
Antonina Simeti
Robert Simmons*
David P. Spath
Michael Stanley-Jones
Lori Steere
Ellen Stern Harris*
Patricia Tennyson
R. Wang
Meena Westford
Bob Whitley
Teng-chung Wu
Valerie Young

City of Santa Clara
University of Southern California
Water Reuse Consultant
Public Policy Institute of California
Sierra Club
Department of Health Services
California Clean Water Action
East Bay Municipal Utilities District

Katz & Associates, Incorporated
Safewater Coalition
Bureau of Reclamation, Southern California Area Office
WaterReuse Association, California Section
Mt. View Sanitary District
CH2MHILL

*Via telephone

State of California
 Department of Water Resources
 State Water Resources Control Board
 Department of Health Services

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP
 2002 RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE
 AND
 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION FOR WATER
 in conjunction with the
 WaterReuse Association-California Section Annual Conference
 February 26, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**HYATT AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF HOTEL
 555 NORTH POINT STREET
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94133**

WORKSHOP AGENDA
 (Times are approximate)

- 10:00-10:10** ***Welcome from the WaterReuse Association***
 (Bob Whitley, California Section President, WaterReuse Association)
- 10:10-11:50** ***Panel on Water Recycling with Public Dialogue***
Herman Collins- Chair
Eric Schockman- Facilitator
2002 Recycled Water Task Force Introduction
 (Jonas Minton, Deputy Director, Department of Water Resources)
Task Force Recommendations
 (Fawzi Karajeh, CA Department of Water Resources and Eric Schockman, Facilitator)
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water Introduction
 (Amy Hui, EJ Outreach Coordinator, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water)
Public Information, Education and Outreach Issues
 (Herman Collins, President, Collins Strategic Group, Inc.)
Water Recycling and Human Health Issues
 (Dave Spath, Drinking Water and Environmental Management Division Chief, Department of Health Services)
Public Comments
- 11:50-12:30** ***Break and Lunch Set-up***
- 12:30--1:50** ***Panel on Processes for Community Involvement***
Jonas Minton- Chair
Eric Schockman- Facilitator
Case Study: East Bay Municipal Utility District
 (Lori Steere, Community Affairs, East Bay Municipal Utility District)
Addressing Public Concerns about Endocrine Disruptors
 (Stephanie Hughes, City of Palo Alto)
CALFED Bay Delta Program Environmental Justice
 (Ken McGhee, Environmental Justice, CALFED Bay Delta Program)
Future of Water Recycling in California
 (Jonas Minton, Deputy Director, Department of Water Resources)
Immunizing the Customers and the Public Against Demagoguery
 (Bahman Sheikh, Water Reuse Consultant)
Public Communication Future
 (Michael Stanley-Jones, Manager, Sustainable Water Program, Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition)
Public Comments
- 1:50-2:00** ***General discussion and public questions and comments***
- 2:00** ***Adjourn***